Copy of a letter from D. Bradford, Supt. to Dr. R. M. Patterson Director of the Mint, dated July 17th. 1838.

75. June 26th

Filed by Mr Bradford
from D Bradford
to
Doct. Patterson
17th July '38

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U. S. B. Mint New Orleans July 17th 1838

Dr. R. M. Patterson Director,

Dear Sir

I have felt greatly indebted to you for your kind and prompt attention in communicating the result of the reassays of the assay pieces I sent you last month. It afforded Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Tyler the highest satisfaction. But Dr. Hort of whose zeal and anxiety to attain accuracy in his operations and in every respect promote the interests of the institution, I cannot express myself too highly, has deemed it proper to address me the following letter which I have great pleasure in bringing to your consideration.

RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 75

Copy of a letter from the Supt. to the Director dated July 17. 1838.

July 17 — 1838

D Bradford Esqr
Supt. Br Mint N O

Sir —

Altho' the Director of the U.S. — Mint at Philadelphia writes that the result of the re assay of ingots is in the whole very satisfactory, yet such differences exist as are anything but satisfactory to me, & I deem it but justice to myself to offer to Dr Patterson through you, what I trust will be considered a sufficient explanation —

I am persuaded that the difference of the assay arises from a defect in my balance & from the unfortunate circumstance of my rooms being situated over the Melter & Refiner's department — from some cause, probably the roughness of the knife edge, or some other unknown to me, the balance is often ~~[illegible]~~ depressed to one side or the other indicating from a half to 2 millièmes, after the weight has been apparently accurately determined — In this respect, it is so capricious, that no matter how many trials I may make, I can never feel perfectly secure as to the result —

I have requested Mr Tyler to obviate this difficulty for me, who has promised to do so, when he will have leisure to attend to it —

Besides this, you are aware sir how every thing in my rooms is jarred by the operations in the Melting & Refining rooms underneath. When they are cutting Silver preparatory to its being melted, every blow is sensibly felt, & it is impossible at that time to bring the balance to perfect rest. The spirit level has to be adjusted every five minutes, & sometimes even the beam is thrown out of its true central position. The first difficulty I presume Mr Tyler can remedy. The second can only be obviated by my removing the balance to another & distant part of the House which will be attended with very great inconvenience, to which however I shall very cheerfully submit.

I remain Respectfully

Yours &c

Wm P. Hort

Assayer

Mr Maxwell yesterday gave to me the pleasing information that in settling with the Treasurer his Gold account came out exactly right. He is not yet through his Silver account but expects the same result. Mr Maxwell has with the most incessant industry and diligence succeeded in his operations far beyond all expectation having had to instruct all his men. Mr Tyler says he could not desire ingots any better than those Mr Maxwell has given him. Mr Tylers annealing furnace I think a great improvement over any with the description of which I have any knowledge and all his operations not only satisfactory but highly creditable to him.

For your letter of the 22nd ulto we are all truly grateful to you. Some of the men have been slightly sick and much alarmed, some have already left but all are satisfied who are still here.

I will I hope in a day or two at farthest, make to you a full report of our proceedings and ~~situation~~ up to this time

With great respect and Esteem

Yr. Obt. Servt.

David Bradford
Superintendent

The foregoing is a Copy D.B.

RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 75

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Recd Nov 26th
Letter from Bradford
to
Doct. Patterson
17th July 38

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D. Bradford Esq
Supt. Br. Mint
New Orleans

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans July 17th 1838

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